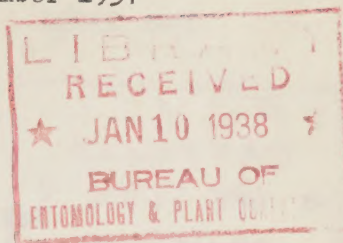


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Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine



INSECT HOLDER

By Craig W. Eagleson,
Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals

This appliance has been used for manipulations on muscoid flies. No injury to the insect results from its proper use.

The holder is made of a self-closing cover-glass forceps. Two pieces of thin sheet metal (copper or zinc) 8 mm by 10 mm are soldered over the ends of the tines, projecting a few mm to form a broad-nosed clamp. A thin piece of sheet rubber is cemented to the inner surface of one tine to provide a cushioning surface against which the insect's wings may be held securely by the opposing tine. The tine bearing the rubber may even be made a few mm longer than the other to form a miniature table for supporting thorax and head.

To use the holder, the fly is first captured in a shell vial. It is then imprisoned against the glass in the crook of the first knuckle joint of one's finger, withdrawn, and the wings grasped, well to their bases and in normal position, by the insect holder.

In this holder most of the external anatomy is readily accessible for whatever operations are to be undertaken.

